Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 171330Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 873

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

MEMBASSY CARACAS 2033

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ECIN EC

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN MISSION AND POLIVIAN OFFICIAL PRESENT OPPOSING

VIEWS TO GOE RE ANDEAN PACT; GOE REAFFIRMS ECUADOR'S

INTENTION TO REMAIN IN PACT

1. MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES, COMMERCE AND INTEGRATION GALO MONTANO ANNOUNCED JUL Y 14 THAT ECUADOR IS PREPARED TO SIGN DECISION 100 EVEN WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF BOLIVIA AND CHILE. "WE HAVE REAFFIRMED SERVERAL TIMES OUR INTENT TO REMAIN WITHIN THE ANDEAN PACT," MONTANO SAID, AND HE ADDED REMARKS TO THE EFFECT THAT ECUADOR, PERU, COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA HAVE TRIED TO MAINTAIN UNITY WITHIN THE ANDEAN PACT BUT THAT THE SAME COOPERATION HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM BOLIVIA AND CHILE.

2. GERMANICO SALGADO, FORMER ECUADOREAN MEMBER OF THE ANDEAN PACT COMMISSION, HELD A CONFERENCE JUL Y15 BEFORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CENDES). IN HIS LENGTHY

PRESENTATION OUTLINING THE HISTORIC DIFFICULTIES OF THE PACT, SALGADO EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE A DISASTER IF CHILE AND BOLIVIA LEFT THE PACT, BECAUSE THEIR MARKETS ARE RELATIVELY SMALL. HENOTED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO HOLD OPEN THE CHILEAN AND BOLIVIAN ASSIGNMENTS, TO ALLOW A PERIOD OF READJUSTMENT AND ULTIMATELY REINTEGRATION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE ANDEAN PACT. SALGADO WAS CRITICAL OF CHILE'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AND ITS INSISTENCE ON A LOW COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF.

- 3. JOSE IGNACIO CASAL, VENEZULEAN MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT, IS NOW VISITING ECUADOR WITH A LARGE MISSION PUBLICIZED AS BEING FOR "STRENGTHENING THE ANDEAN PACT." ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE VENEZULEAN MISSION PLANS TO DISCUSS MEANS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ECUADOR AND VENEZULEA IN IMPLEMENTING THE SECTORAL ASSIGNMENTS. ON HIS ARRIVAL, THE VENEZUELAN MINISTER SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT REACHING AN AGREEMENT ON DECISION 24, BUT IMPLIED THAT VENEZUELA IS NOT KEEN TO ALTER DECISION 24 SUBSTANTIALLY
- 4. WILLY VARGAS, THE BOLIVIAN SECRETARY OF FOREIGN TRADE,
 ALSO MET WITH MONTANO JULY 15 DURING VARGAS TOUR THROUGH
 THE ANDEAN COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS
 CONFRONTING THE ANDEAN PACT. VARGAS ANNOUNCED TO THE ECUADOREAN
 PRESS THAT INDUSTRIAL PROGRAMMING REMAINS BOLIVIA'S REASON
 FOR PACT MEMBERSHIP, BUT COMMENTED THAT DECISION 24 SHOULD
 BE AMENDED "WHILE MAINTIANING THE SPIRIT AND OBJECTIVES."
- 5. COMMENT: MINISTER MONTANO, WHO HAS EXTENSIVE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN ANDEANAFFAIRS AND PARTICULARLY IN THE FORMULATION OF THE ANDEAN PACT PETROCHEMICAL ASSIGNMENTS, WILL SURELY CONTINUE HIS SUPPORT OF THE ANDEAN PACT. MONTANO HAS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE CONSIDERS CHILE'S POSITION ON THE COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF UNTENABLE AND CONSIDERS IMPOSITION OF THE COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF OF FAR MORE IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE THAN REVISION OF DECISION 24, ALTHOUGH HE HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO GO ALONG WITH LIBERALIZATION OF DECISION 24. ECUADOR ALSO URGENTLY SUPPORTS DECISION 100 SINCE ECUADOR REMAINS CHRONICALLY BEHIND IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECTORAL PROGRAMS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND NEEDS THE "BREATHING SPACE" THAT DECISION 100 WOULD AFFORD. BLOOMFIELD

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ECUADOR'S

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